

REMARKS

Claims 10-15 and 18-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 16 and 17 are canceled, and claims 22 and 23 are amended. Claims 22 and 23 are amended for form. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made to correct form. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Gilman in the November 15, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. Rejection of Claims 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16-23

The Office Action rejects claims 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,703,397 to Minoura et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,724,730 to Tanaka or U.S. Patent No. 4,949,454 to Schauer et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled, and thus the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14 and 18-23 would not have been rendered obvious by Minoura in view of Tanaka or Schauer. There is no motivation to combine Minoura with Tanaka or Schauer. More specifically, Minoura teaches away from such combination. "It is improper to

combine references where the references teach away from their combination." *In re Grasselli*, 713 F.2d, 731, 743, 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Circ. 1983); see also MPEP §2144 (X)(D). Further, "if the proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification." *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984); see also MPEP §2143.01.

The object of Minoura is to provide a functional circuit that includes a junction block and an electronic unit pack that is detachably connected to the junction block. See, e.g., Minoura, col. 2, lines 48-54. However, Tanaka and Schauer allegedly discloses a bus bar and harness that are welded with the housing. That is, Tanaka and Schauer allegedly disclose a bus bar and harness that are undetachably connected to the housing. Thus, the proposed modification, the structure of Minoura with Tanaka or Schauer, would render Minoura unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine the structure of Minoura with that of Tanaka or Schauer.

Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 10 and 13 are patentable over Minoura, Tanaka and Schauer. Further, claims 11, 14 and 18-23, which variously depend from claims 10 and 13, are patentable over Minoura, Tanaka and Schauer for at least these reasons, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. Rejection of Claims 12 and 15

The Office Action rejects claims 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Minoura in view of Tanaka and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,894 to Shukushima et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12 and 15 would not have been rendered obvious by Minoura in view of Tanaka and Shukushima. There is no motivation to combine Minoura with Tanaka and Shukushima. As discussed above with respect to claims 10 and 13, Minoura teaches away

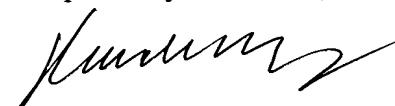
from such combination. Claims 12 and 15 depend from claims 10 and 13, respectively. Thus, claims 12 and 15 are patentable over Minoura, Tanaka, and Shukushima for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 10 and 13, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 18, 2005

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